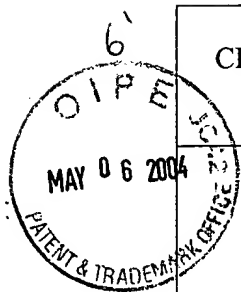


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IN RE APPLICATION OF: Liaw, et al.		
Serial No.: 09/630,454	Filing Date: August 2, 2000	
Title: Novel Bacterial Strains, Methods of Preparing the Same and Use Thereof in Fermentation Processes for L-Lysine Production		
Group Art Unit 1645	Examiner Devi, Sarvamangala JN	

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: : **PATENT APPLICATION**
:
Hungming J. Liaw, et al. : **NOVEL BACTERIAL STRAINS, METHODS**
: **OF PREPARING THE SAME AND USE**
: **THEREOF IN FERMENTATION**
: **PROCESSES FOR L-LYSINE PRODUCTION**
:
Serial No.: 09/630,454 : **Group Art Unit: 1645**
:
Filed: August 2, 2000 : **Examiner: Devi, Sarvamangala J N**
:
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219
May 6, 2004

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Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND REPLY TO FINAL OFFICIAL
ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Sir:

This is in response to the Final Official Action mailed March 9, 2004, in connection with the above-captioned Application, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire June 9, 2004. This Amendment and Reply is submitted within the two-month period of the mailing date of the final action. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue an advisory action before the end of the three-month period ending June 9, 2004. The Examiner's objections and rejections have been carefully considered, and in view of the following remarks and amendments, reconsideration and early allowance of all pending claims is courteously requested.

Please amend this Application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the Listing of Claims, which begins on page 3 of this Response.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this Response.